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DISTRIBUTION OF *CTENOTRACHELUS SHERMANI* BARBER, AN ASSASSIN BUG NEW TO THE FAUNA OF VIRGINIA (HETEROPTERA: REDUVIIDAE) -- Judged from its meager representation in the literature, *Ctenotrachelus shermani* would appear to be one of the rarest reduviid bugs in North America. It was originally recorded from Raleigh, North Carolina (Blatchley, 1926), under the incorrect name *Schumannia mexicana* Champion. The same name was employed by Brimley (1938), who was unaware that the Raleigh specimen had been restudied by H. G. Barber during his revision of American Stenopodinae (1929-30), found to differ significantly from species of *Schumannia*, and relocated into *Ctenotrachelus* as type specimen of a new species, *C. shermani*. More recent sources (Henry & Froeschner, 1988; Maldonado Capriles, 1990) cite only "N.C." for the species, although the latter provides an unattributed "[Cuba]" as well.

During the sorting of extensive material captured during inventory surveys in extreme southeastern Virginia by the Division of Natural Heritage, Department of Conservation and Recreation, technicians at the Virginia Museum of Natural History recovered an unusual assassin bug which literature sources suggested to be referable to *C. shermani*. This possibility was confirmed by comparison of the specimen with the holotype (National Museum of Natural History), and the species thus established as a member of the Virginia fauna, reaching its northernmost known locality at the Chesapeake estuary. Suspecting that additional, unreported material might exist, I inquired of the curators of several insect collections in the southeastern United States. Two such depositories confirmed that specimens were indeed extant, and provided the locality information upon which the map (Fig. 1) was prepared. Moreover, additional specimens have been found in Virginia, and collectively contribute to a modified perception about the species: it is by no means rare. Pin label data suggest that light trapping is a productive technique for obtaining *C. shermani*, and that its more extensive application is likely to generate many additional locality records. Inasmuch as publication of my treatment of Virginia reduviids may be deferred into an indeterminate future, I think it is justified to publish the documentation accumulated for this species.

Collection data for the specimens from Virginia (all VMNH) are cited here in full; localities for states to the south are represented on the map (Fig. 1).

City of Chesapeake: Northwest River Park, ca. 8 km SE Hickory, 5-16 July 2004, Robert Vigneault (1). **City of Virginia Beach**: First Landing/Seashore State Park, 5-26 July 1989, Kurt A. Buhlmann (1); also 23 June-7 July 2003, Robert Vigneault (3). **Greensville County**: Fontaine Creek at US Hwy 301, ca. 1.6 km S Dahlia, 6 June 2002, K. L. Derge (1).

Ctenotrachelus shermani is easily distinguished from species of other regional genera (*Oncocephalus, Narvesus, Pygolampis, Stenopoda*) of Stenopodainae by the antennal and femoral characters used in Blatchley's key, but is further set off by the wide separation of the 1st and 2nd pairs of legs and a curious modification of the procoxal acetabulum. The ventral edges of propleura and mesopleura – in the region of their commisure – are flared outward to form a hoodlike covering over the coxal base (Fig. 2, arrow), a presumably synapomorphic feature shared with the Neotropical genus *Ocrioessa*

In addition to *C. shermani*, *Ctenotrachelus* is represented by one species in Mexico and 13 in South America (Maldonado Capriles, 1990). The absence of other species in the West Indies, and the lack of Florida

Fig. 1. Southeastern United States, with known localities for *Ctenotrachelus shermani* indicated by triangle symbols.

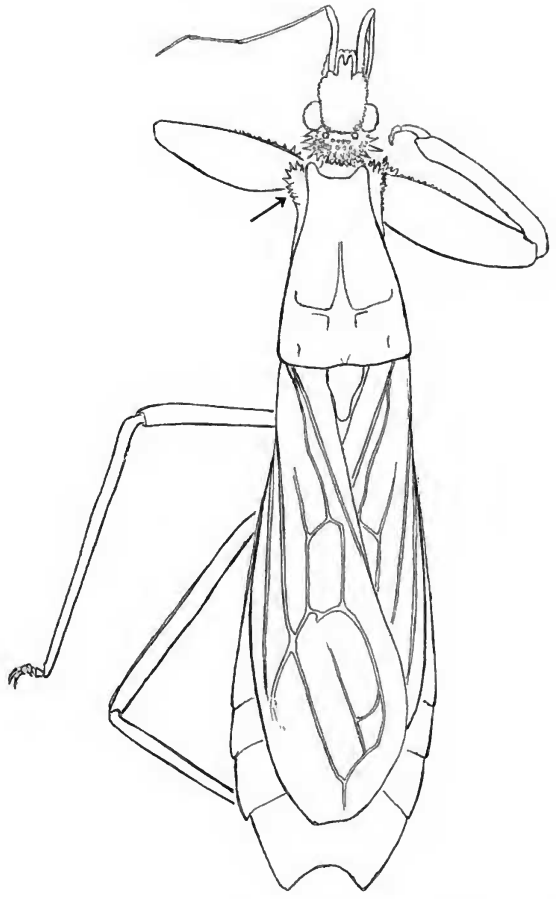

Fig. 2. *Ctenotrachelus shermani*, showing characteristic placement of forelimbs relative to body axis, small antennae, and modified propleural region (arrow).

records south of Gainesville, suggest that the ostensible find in "Cuba" might be based on a mislabeled or adventive specimen.

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The late Richard C. Froeschner kindly facilitated my consultation of the National Museum of Natural History reduviid collection. Cecil L. Smith (University of Georgia), Paul Lago (University of Mississippi), John C. Morse (Clemson University) and Frank W. Mead (Florida State Collection of Arthropods) kindly responded to my inquiries about *C. shermani* and/or granted access to the material. Material from the inventories conducted by the Division of Natural Heritage was transferred to VMNH through the interest of Christopher A. Pague and Steven M. Roble. I am indebted to these helpful colleagues for providing the substance of this report.

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BUTTERFLIES AND SKIPPERS CROSSING THE JAMES RIVER IN SPRING -- Each spring from 1997-2004, I have conducted a hawkwatch on the north shore of the James River in James City County, three miles southeast of the City of Williamsburg, where College Creek empties into the river. This study has documented that the site is a water-crossing route for migratory hawks, vultures, and many other bird species (Taber, 1997). It appears to also be a significant route for butterflies and skippers. A northward-pointing finger of land, on the south shore at Hog Island Wildlife Management Area, in Surry County, creates a dominant landmark at a sharp bend in the river. It is a convenient feature, which ushers northbound wildlife across the 2.4 km expanse of water.

I conduct the hawkwatch, often with one or two other volunteers, almost daily throughout March, April, and May, generally from mid-morning until early